

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A chemically modified ~~double-stranded~~ short-interfering nucleic acid (siNA) nucleic acid molecule comprising a distinct sense strand and an antisense strand, wherein:
 - a. the nucleic acid molecule comprises a sense strand and a separate antisense strand, each strand having one or more pyrimidine nucleotides and one or more purine nucleotides;
 - ~~a.~~ b. each strand of said siNA the nucleic acid molecule is independently about 18 to about 27 nucleotides in length;
 - ~~b.~~ c. the antisense strand of said siNA molecule comprises nucleotide sequence of about an 18 to about 27 nucleotides that nucleotide sequence of the antisense strand of the nucleic acid molecule is complementary to a human huntingtin (HD) nucleotide RNA sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 3578 and the sense strand is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises a portion of said HD nucleotide sequence of about 18 to about 27 nucleotides; and
 - d. an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the sense strand of the nucleic acid molecule is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the human HD RNA;
 - ~~e.~~ e. about 100% of nucleotide positions in one or both strands of said siNA molecule about 50 to 100 percent of the nucleotides in the sense strand and about 50 to 100 percent of the nucleotides in the antisense strand are chemically modified with modifications independently selected from the group consisting of 2'-O-methyl, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, 2'-deoxyphosphorothioate and deoxybasic modifications; and [[.]]
 - f. one or more of the purine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides and one or more

of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein ~~one~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotides.
14. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein ~~one~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the purine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.
15. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein ~~one~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends of the sense strand.
17. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 16, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.
18. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein ~~one~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more ~~of the~~ pyrimidine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
19. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein ~~one~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more ~~of the~~ purine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.
20. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein ~~one~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more ~~of the~~ purine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are ~~2'-deoxy-~~ 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro purine nucleotides.
21. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the antisense strand ~~comprises~~ includes a terminal phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of the antisense strand.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 9 1, wherein the 5'-end of the antisense strand includes a terminal phosphate group.
31. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising the ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
32. (Canceled)
33. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, or 3 of the purine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.
34. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the antisense strand, sense strand, or both the antisense strand and sense strand include a 3'-overhang of 1-3 nucleotides.
35. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 34, wherein the nucleotides of the 3'-overhang are chemically modified with one or more phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages, 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotides, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro ribonucleotides, 2'-deoxy ribonucleotides, universal base nucleotides, 5-C-methyl nucleotides, inverted deoxybasic moieties or a combination thereof.